



## HOPI JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

"A Great Place to Learn"

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Steven Berbeco, Superintendent  
Claudia Edgewater, High School Principal  
Lucille Sidney, Junior High School Principal  
*"Home of the Bruins"*

Chairman Ajit Pai  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW,  
Washington, DC 20554

October 29, 2017

Dear Chairman Pai:

I am writing today in response to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Public Notice which, among other things, considers changes to the E-Rate program. Our school would like to thank the FCC for its continued support for the E-Rate program and for the policy changes the commission adopted in 2014. The E-Rate program provides critical discounts to assist schools like ours to obtain affordable telecommunications and internet access.

The vision and mission statements of Hopi Junior/Senior High School ensure that we provide a safe and healthy learning environment; provide students with the skills to empower themselves to their fullest potential; and ensure all stakeholders have access and meaningful connections with quality resources. In our mission to provide a quality education, we serve approximately 550 full-time students in grades seven to twelve in our rural community. Our student population is 98% Native American, 93% participate in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program, and 70% are English Language Learners.

E-Rate dollars are critical to our students' success. Through this program we are able to afford high-speed Internet and Wi-Fi connectivity, which assist directly in our credit recovery program, advanced coursework through a local community college, connecting our students to critically important learning resources that form the basis of their education, and providing high-quality and just-in-time professional development to our teachers and staff. Without the support of E-Rate, we would have to make significant cuts to mission-critical resources such as reducing the number of certified teachers on staff.

The E-Rate program is a program succeeding in its mission. As the FCC moves forward with this public notice, it is prudent to remain focused on the fact that E-Rate is a program that works *and it works well*. Any changes to the E-Rate program should be focused on expanding a successful program that has yet to reach its full potential and ensuring the FCC remains a good steward of the changes adopted 2014, allowing those changes to progress and play out as intended.

E-Rate has played a critical role in the rapid and significant expansion of connectivity in schools like ours, and the 2014 modernization was a much needed update to ensure more schools and libraries are connected to broadband. The E-Rate's investment in Category 2 Wi-Fi and internal connections funding is extremely valuable and could not be replaced by other existing funding sources.



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Hopi Junior/Senior High School plans to use all of our Category 2 allotment by 2020 in making further improvements to our school community's connectivity. We anticipate that the connectivity provided by Category 2 allotment funding will improve our students' and teachers' education experience by ensuring access to high-need and high-value Internet resources with greater reliability and less down-time.

In closing, I reiterate our continued, strong support for and reliance upon the E-Rate program for being able to access and afford the high-speed connectivity that is so central to our students' learning. Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Steven Berbeco, Ed.D.

Superintendent